ADEQ Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Janet Napolitano, Governor
Stephen A. Owens, ADEQ Director

MEETING MINUTES

Ref: OU# 05-062

Phoenix – Goodyear Airport Area/Western Avenue Plume
Community Advisory Group Meeting

Thursday, February 3, 2005
6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m.
Goodyear City Hall, Room 117
190 N. Litchfield Road
Goodyear, Arizona

FINAL MINUTES

CAG members present: Diane Krone; Susan Kagan; Thomas Jones, Jr.; Sam Wallick; Keith Longley

Members absent**:** Sheri Michele Lauritano

ADEQ Staff in attendance: Monica Mascareno, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator; Lou Sandoval, ADEQ Project Manager; Cathy O'Connell, ADEQ Project Manager

EPA Staff in attendance: Viola Cooper, Community Involvement Coordinator; Mary Aycock, Remedial Project Manager; Mike Montgomery, Section Chief

Members of the public present: Darryl Henning; Dave Iwanski; David Day; Kevin Murdock, CH2M Hill; Robert Mongrain, ARCADIS; Steve Gray, ARCADIS; Dr. Fred Scott; Elliott Gonzalez; Robert Smith; R. Sakamoto; Dino Gotsis; Bruce Throckmorton

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The meeting began at 6:39 p.m.

The following matters were discussed, considered, and decided upon at the meeting:

1. Call to Order / Introduction of CAG Applicants
Monica Mascareno, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, welcomed everyone, and gave an overview of the agenda topics for the meeting. Ms. Mascareno asked the audience and CAG members to hold all questions until the end of each presentation, unless clarification is necessary. She then turned it over to Diane Krone, CAG Co-Chair, who ran the rest of the meeting. Ms. Krone welcomed everyone as well and introduced herself. She asked all CAG members, staff members, and members of the public who were present to introduce themselves. During the introductions, Viola Cooper, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, announced that EPA, along with ADEQ, has

produced a fact sheet for the PGA North Site, which will be sent to the mailing list. Mary Aycock introduced herself as the new EPA Project Manager for the PGA North and South Sites.

2. Discussion of CAG membership and recent letter

Ms. Krone spoke briefly about the lack of participation of some CAG members in the past, and described a letter that was mailed out to all CAG members regarding this. The letter requested that all CAG members contact Ms. Mascareno to let her know whether they wish to remain on the board. As a result of this letter, three CAG members informed Ms. Mascareno that they declined their current CAG membership. Also, Ms. Krone noted that although Pam Fischer remained on the current CAG member list, she had actually resigned from the CAG several months back. As a consequence of all these changes, the number of CAG members present at the meeting formed a quorum; and were able to continue conducting business.

3. Acceptance and / or changes to April 23, 2003, August 13, 2003, November 19, 2003, AND October 21, 2004 CAG meeting minutes

Ms. Krone motioned that the minutes for the April 23, 2003 CAG meeting be approved as written. Thomas Jones, CAG member, seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Jones motioned that the minutes for the August 13, 2003 CAG meeting be approved as written. Keith Longley, CAG member, seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Susan Kagan, CAG member, motioned that the minutes for the November 19, 2003 CAG meeting be approved as written. Mr. Longley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. Jones motioned that the minutes for the October 21, 2004 CAG meeting be approved as written. Mr. Longley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

4. Discussion and voting on new CAG Members

The CAG membership applicants who were present at the meeting; David Day, Dr. Fred Scott, and Robert Smith, each introduced himself and spoke on why he should be voted on as a new CAG member.

The CAG voted, and unanimously carried the motion that David Day be accepted as a new CAG member.

The CAG voted, and unanimously carried the motion that Robert Smith be accepted as a new CAG member.

The CAG voted, and unanimously carried the motion that Dr. Fred Scott be accepted as a new CAG member.

The three new CAG members joined the rest of the group at their table.

Ms. Krone explained that Henri Gauthier, a current CAG member, has not attended a CAG meeting since December 3, 2001, and has neglected to contact the CAG or ADEQ staff. Recent attempts to contact Mr. Gauthier were not reciprocated. Ms. Krone entertained a motion to terminate Mr. Gauthier's membership of the CAG. Ms. Kagan moved, and Mr. Longley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously carried.

5. Discussion and voting on new CAG Co-Chair

Ms. Krone asked that CAG members volunteer or nominate another CAG member to serve as CAG Co-Chair. Mr. Jones volunteered. The CAG voted, and unanimously carried the motion that Thomas Jones be accepted as the new CAG Co-Chair.

6. Western Avenue Plume update – Lou Sandoval, ADEQ Project Manager

Ms. Sandoval began by explaining that although she is not the ADEQ Project Manager for the Western Avenue Plume site (Ana Vargas is the new ADEQ Project Manager) that she will be providing the update on that site. Ms. Sandoval displayed a slide of the site map and described the placements of the wells at the site, and a brief overview of the concentrations of PCE that are present at some wells. A draft Remedial Investigation Report was submitted to ADEQ. ADEQ forwarded comments to consultants on January 25, 2005. The report is not yet ready for public comment at this time.

7. PGA South update – Lou Sandoval, ADEQ Project Manager

Ms. Sandoval began her update on PGA South by stating that extraction well E-102 has been operating since November 3, 2004. The new extraction well has been installed at the northern end of the Northern Sub-Unit C plume. As a result of those actions, E-101, the first extraction well, which was located at the heel of the plume, was shut down. The extraction system at the Southern Sub-Unit C plume has been working successfully at removing the TCE contamination from the groundwater. The plume size has shrunk from about 40 acres to about 10 acres. This is very good news because that plume threatened the City of Goodyear drinking water well, COG-11 in the beginning, but now COG-11 is safe.

Dr. Fred Scott, CAG member, asked if monitoring of nitrates is being performed in the Sub-Unit C Plume. Ms. Sandoval responded that nitrates are not a Superfund contaminant of concern but that she was reasonably certain that groundwater monitoring does include analysis of nitrates. Ms. Sandoval stated that she would have to look into that and follow- up with the group with an answer. She added that part of the reason why the Sub-Unit A aquifer is not used for drinking water is that it is fairly high in total dissolved solids (TDS) and nitrate concentrations. Dr. Scott re-iterated his question; asking about

the relationship between nitrate levels and perchlorate, as far as the breakdown of perchlorate is concerned. Ms. Sandoval responded that at a previous meeting, a presentation was given about the remediation of perchlorate-contaminated water by using the waste water treatment plant. The same process that treats the waste water will break down perchlorate, but high nitrate levels in the waste water would interfere with the breakdown. Perchlorate is not a contaminant of concern at PGA-South; in Sub-unit C or in Sub-unit A. High nitrates may interfere with the biological activity involved in the breakdown of perchlorates in the waste water treatment plant, but the Sub-unit A aquifer has not been shown to contain sufficient microbes to promote biological breakdown of contaminants.

8. The CAG took a 15 minute break.

Ms. Krone re-adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

9. PGA North Site Overview and Status – Mary Aycock, EPA Project Manager.

Ms. Aycock began her slide presentation with a brief review of the history and status of the Site, and then continued to present on the following points:

- The mediums that are contaminated are groundwater, soil gas, and soil in the source area.
- Monitoring and investigation activities; work that started the previous year, and is still in progress.
- The soil vapor extraction (SVE) system, with a granulated activated carbon treatment unit, was re-started by Crane Co. in May of 2004.
- A source area/main dry well area investigation began in November, 2004 which included soil, gas and groundwater sampling. Additional investigation is planned for the source area.
- Bench-scale studies have been performed to evaluate the potential for subsurface in-situ treatment.
- Seven potential conduit wells were closed, and others will be evaluated and closed if needed.
- Data from the wells is being used to evaluate the groundwater monitoring network, and to develop a new flow model that would indicate which wells are impacted by the plume.
- In February of 2005, indoor/outdoor sampling of certain buildings will continue in order to determine whether any are impacted by underground TCE. Air sampling conducted by Crane Co. in September of 2003 showed no detection of Site contaminants at levels of concern.

An audience member inquired about whether the building pressure is being monitored, and how that data is compared to the air quality data. Ms. Aycock did not know the answer to that question at the time, but stated that if she and the audience member exchanged contact information, that she would research an answer.

Ms. Krone asked for clarification of who is currently paying for the investigative and cleanup activities at the Site. Ms. Aycock and Cathy O'Connell, ADEQ Project Manager, responded that ARCADIS is performing the work (as a contractor for Crane Co.) and they are being paid by Crane Co. The EPA and Superfund program are currently paying for the oversight of the work that is being done at the Site. Part of the settlement that is being negotiated includes a consent decree that would allow EPA and Superfund to recover past costs from Crane Co. Ms. Krone inquired about a particular project that was paid for by EPA; Ms. Sandoval responded that one particular project of soil boring installations was paid for by EPA, but all other on-going projects have been paid for by Crane Co.

Ms. Aycock continued her presentation by describing on-going groundwater treatment to remove TCE and perchlorate, the primary contaminants at this Site. More than 36,500 pounds of TCE have been removed since pump-and-treat began in 1994. More than 42 pounds of perchlorate have been removed since the treatment at the City of Goodyear's wastewater treatment plant began in 2003. A new onsite treatment system for perchlorate has been proposed.

In response to Ms. Krone's inquiry about acceptable levels of perchlorate, Ms. Aycock stated that a recent national science advisory council held discussions on what daily perchlorate standards, when consumed by humans, can be considered risk-free levels. The levels discussed by that council were 24.5 ppb for clean-up levels at the Site. The site-specific action level has been 4.0 ppb to date. The groundwater at this Site is currently at 10-14ppb. The treatment system should reduce those levels to a non-detect status.

Ms. Aycock began to describe the closure of conduit wells at the site. An updated well inventory was completed in September of 2004; this data will help build the flow model. Potential conduit wells have been identified. Seven wells were investigated and properly abandoned in 2004. Additional wells will be investigated and closed in the future.

In response to a CAG member's inquiry on how it is decided when a well gets capped, Ms. Aycock responded that a well investigation includes sampling at various depths, to see if there is contamination, debris or if the condition of the well is deteriorating. If necessary, drilling would begin to clean the well out, and then it would be filled with concrete, or capped.

Ms. Aycock continued by describing the groundwater monitoring investigation. The shallow aquifer plume, which is contaminated with TCE, continues to expand to the northeast. The extent of the deeper aquifer contamination is still not defined. The existing groundwater monitoring system was evaluated and the analysis of the data continued during 2004. The groundwater investigation work plan will continue in 2005; field work is expected to begin in March or April of 2005.

Ms. Krone inquired about a comparison of the number of test wells and soil borings that are in place for the PGA South and PGA North Sites, because the contamination plume at PGA North continues to grow, while the PGA South plume has diminished significantly.

Ms. Aycock replied that PGA North had considerably more contaminants than PGA South to begin with, and the concentrations of those contaminants existed at much higher levels. Continuous pumping and treating took place at PGA South since the 1990's, and possibly the biggest downfall for the PGA North Site cleanup may have been when Crane Co. shut down the SVE system.

Mr. Longley inquired about the origin of the contamination at PGA North. Ms. Aycock pointed to some areas on a map and explained that those wells were the first to show the contamination. She added that it is desirable to identify all wells on the Site because abandoned wells, if left unmanaged or improperly abandoned, may act as conduits and draw contaminants (TCE) into lower levels of the aquifer, causing contamination to spread to the deeper (subunit C) levels.

Ms. Aycock displayed slides with information on the upper three groundwater units, the changes in the shallow aquifer plumes over time, and the conceptual extent of TCE and perchlorate contamination in the deep aquifer in 2004.

Mr. Longley asked how EPA is stopping the usage of TCE, so it doesn't cause any more contamination. Ms. Aycock briefly described the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), which created an accountability system for all chemicals. RCRA was passed in 1979, and it stated that anyone who handles and disposes of hazardous chemicals has to obtain an ID number, which helps keep track of the inventory of chemicals. Solvents have become expensive, and many companies offer the service of recovering, and recycling solvents for reuse.

Ms. Aycock continued her presentation. EPA and Crane Co. continue quarterly monitoring of drinking water supply wells near the facility, in addition to monitoring by water suppliers. Crane Co. continues to sample key wells more frequently, as directed by EPA. New sentinel wells will be installed under the 2005 Groundwater investigation work plan. Robert Mongrain, of ARCADIS, added that a sentinel well is a monitoring well that is located between the plume and the production well. A network of 10 to 15 sentinel wells will be placed along the outside of the plume, to monitor and help determine the current boundary of the plume.

Ms. Aycock described the priorities for Site work in the future. An investigation of contaminant migration in the source area (facility) and the northern end of the plume will continue. The installation of additional monitoring and extraction wells is planned, to control the migration and to further define the extent of the contamination. The development of a new groundwater model is planned to help predict plume boundaries. A complete investigation is planned to determine the extent of the soil gas and other contamination in the source area. The operation of the SVE system with granulated activated carbon treatment will continue. The removal of TCE and perchlorate from groundwater will continue.

David Day, CAG member, commented on the emphasis that has been placed on the SVE system; Mr. Day inquired about the radius of influence of that system, and how it affects

the source area. Mr. Day stated that it didn't seem enough to address the source area, and all other contamination at the site. Ms. Aycock responded that the flow model will help determine the impact of the system. She added that there probably should be more of those types of systems around the parameter, the source area, and a couple other areas that are being considered; the more systems added, the faster the cleanup. Mr. Day reiterated that if the SVE system has been successful (in an area) then more systems should be installed. Ms. Aycock reassured him that it is planned to add more.

A brief discussion was held about owner responsibilities, liabilities, and ethical factors of owning property on the Site.

Ms. Aycock stated that she feels that the EPA is entering a position in which real progress can be made at the Site. She plans to continue her participation in informing the community of new information, and to continue to brief the CAG and make fact sheets available.

10. Upcoming Site Activities for PGA North – Robert Mongrain, ARCADIS

Mr. Mongrain explained that ARCADIS is performing the investigative work on behalf of Crane Co. He introduced Steve Gray, of ARCADIS, who also works on the project. Mr. Mongrain added that Crane Co. is committed to working on the investigation.

Mr. Mongrain presented details on the work that is being performed or planned by ARCADIS regarding the main dry well/source area investigation, the SVE system, groundwater modeling, indoor air quality, and perchlorate treatment.

11. Questions and Answers

Members of the CAG posed various specific questions on the work described by Mr. Mongrain. Mr. Mongrain responded to each of those questions. Ms. Aycock also answered some additional questions from CAG members and from the audience.

12. Call to the Public

Ms. Krone asked if there were any final questions or comments from the audience; there weren't any.

13. Future Meeting Plans / Agenda Discussion

A tentative date for the next CAG meeting was set for Thursday, June 9, 2005.

Ms. Krone suggested that since the CAG is composed of members with technical backgrounds, that greater detail would be appropriate for the presentations on the status of remedial activities at the Site.

Ms. Mascareno added that she will call the Co-Chairs regarding the agenda topics for the next CAG meeting, and she recommended that CAG members contact their Co-Chairs if they have suggestions on topics for the next meeting.

14. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.